

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH ON YAMANI PROPOSAL

REF: A. STATE 215656; B. STATE 215656

BEGIN SUMMARY: JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TAKASUGI APPROACHED AMEMBASSY JIDDA WITH REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON EXTENT OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR LATEST YAMANI PROPOSAL ON COMBINED CONFERENCE. HE INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO SUPPORT SUCH A CONFERENCE BUT U.S. STILL WAS MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR. HE WAS TOLD THAT U.S. AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A SMALL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY ALONE BUT FELT EXPANDED CONFERENCE ON OTHER SUBJECTS WOULD LEAD TO LITTLE RESULT. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER DEFINITION OF THE U.S. POSITION SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM DEPT. END SUMMARY

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KANJI TAKASUGI REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH CHARGE AND ECON COUNS TO DISCUSS YAMANI PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE CONFERENCE TO COVER NATURAL RESOURCES, FOOD, AND PETROLEUM. HE SAID IT HAD BEEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING EMBASSY OBTAINED SUPPORT OF STATE DEPT FOR THIS NEW CONCEPT. WAS THIS TRUE?

2. CHARGE OUTLINED HISTORY OF BAROODY PROPOSAL AND YAMANI APPROACHES TO EMBASSY MODIFYING THAT PROPOSAL TO A SINGLE
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HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS.

WASHINGTON HAD RESPONDED WITH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO IDEA OF MEETING. FURTHER EXPLORATION WITH YAMANI BROUGHT OUT HIS DESIRE TO COVER EVERYTHING IN ONE MEETING. THIS POINT WAS STILL AN ISSUE. THE INCLUSION OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS ADDED A FURTHER DIMENSION TO THE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL AND WAS OPPOSED BY WASHINGTON. HE SUGGESTED THAT UPON AMBASSADOR AKINS' RETURN THERE MIGHT BE MORE NEWS ON THIS POINT.

3. AMBASSADOR TAKASUGI ASKED IF YAMANI HAD EXPLAINED THE CHANGE IN CONCEPT. CHARGE SAID THAT SUCH AN EXPLANATION HAD BEEN GIVEN BY YAMANI IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. AMBASSADOR TAKASUGI SAID THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A DIFFERENCE IN WHAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD AND THE USG VIEW OF THE CHANGE IN THE SAUDI PROPOSAL. INSTEAD OF DIFFERENT GROUPS DISCUSSING DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, YAMANI HAD INDICATED A MERGING OF THE SUBJECTS. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO FEEL THIS WAS AN EXPANSION OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL INSTEAD OF A MERGING. CHARGE SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN YAMANI'S CONCEPT OF A COMPACT AND TIGHTLY FOCUSED CONFERENCE BUT THERE WAS A CONFLICT IN HIS EXPANDING THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE RAW MATERIALS AND FOOD. HE CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR TAKASUGI THAT THE INTEREST IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS CONFINED TO DISCUSSING ENERGY, THAT PERHAPS THERE COULD BE AGREEMENT ON ENERGY IN A SMALL CONFERENCE OF 12 OR 13 STATES, BUT IF THE OTHER SUBJECTS WERE THROWN IN, ONE COULD TALK FOR 100 YEARS WITHOUT MUCH FORWARD MOVEMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR TAKASUGI SAID THAT HE WISHED TO COME TO THE POINT: MINISTER YAMANI HAD INDICATED THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED AND SUPPORTED THE ENTIRE NEW IDEA. WAS THIS TRUE? THE CHARGE SAID THAT THAT WAS NOT EXACTLY THE WAY WE HAD UNDERSTOOD IT.

5. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS VERY MUCH INCLINED TO SUPPORT THE YAMANI PROPOSAL, AS IT HAD THE BAROODY PROPOSAL, BUT THE U.S. ATTITUDE WAS STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR. CHARGE INDICATED THAT THE JAPANESE COULD OBTAIN FROM THE DEPT MUCH MORE OF THE FLAVOR AND CURRENT ATTITUDES OF THE VARIOUS

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AGENCIES INVOLVED. HE NOTED THAT SAG POLICY WAS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO DEFINE. AMBASSADOR TAKASUGI SAID IN CLOSING THAT HE HAD BEEN SEEKING REACTIONS OF THE SAUDIS TO THE SPEECHES OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION. HE CONCLUDED THAT ON THIS AS ON MANY OTHER MATTERS THE SAUDIS KEPT THEIR OPINIONS, WHICH THEY MUST HAVE, TO THEMSELVES.

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